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Fairmont State Community & Technology College Approved For Rural Business Enterprise Grant

Morgantown, WV – June 21, 2006: State Director Robert M. Steptoe, III, today announced that Rural Development approved a Rural Business Enterprise Grant of \$25,000 for Fairmont State Community & Technology College, Marion County, WV.

Rural Development funds will be used to provide training, counseling, leadership and support to small and emerging businesses in order to create jobs and economic prosperity within the rural counties of central West Virginia.

Steptoe remarked, "This project is expected to create 40 jobs and save 40 jobs, indicative of Rural Development's mission to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans."

Rural Development serves as the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers program assistance through its rural housing programs, rural business programs, and rural utilities programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Further information on USDA Rural Development may be obtained by visiting USDA's web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov. In West Virginia, call 1-800-295-8228 to be put in touch with the appropriate personnel serving your county. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202.720.2600 (voice and TDD).

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